



13 September 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

I am so sorry to be writing yet again with news of further delay. Whilst significant progress has been made since I last wrote to you, we have not been able to accept handover of the new buildings today, principally due to delays to final testing and certification. Whilst this is beyond our control, given the progress made and the nature of the outstanding issues, we are confident that students will return to school on Monday.

In light of this news, we have enhanced our off-site provision for our younger and more vulnerable children, and will continue with live remote learning for our secondary aged students for the rest of this week. The full details are:

HMS Year 5

Tomorrow, our year 5s will have a further day at Hexham Abbey, following the same arrangements as today. Mr Watters has written separately to parents/carers about this.

We will also arrange for our year 5s to be with us on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday this week. We are in the process of sorting out the venue for this and will confirm details tomorrow, including transport arrangements.

HMS Year 6

Tomorrow, our year 6s will have a full day of live remote learning with form tutors and teachers – please see the guidance issued by Mr Watters previously.

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, we will arrange for our year 6s to be with us in person. We are in the process of sorting out the venue for this and will confirm details tomorrow, including transport arrangements.

HMS Years 7 & 8

Year 7 and 8 pupils will continue live remote learning for the rest of this week. Tomorrow will now be a full day of live lessons, whereas previously Tuesday was going to be morning only.

QE Years 9-13

Year 9-13 students will continue live remote learning for the rest of this week. Tomorrow will now be a full day of live lessons, whereas previously Tuesday was going to be morning only.

Vulnerable children

Our SEND and pastoral staff will liaise directly with parents and carers of children deemed vulnerable to arrange supervised provision for them.

Hexham Middle School

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Executive Headteacher: **Graeme Atkins**

Head of School: **Liam Watters**



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spes durat avorum

Some parents have understandably asked why we did not appear to anticipate delay. We based our planning on very firm assurances that had been given to us, and a three-week contingency was factored in. All return-to-school dates we have communicated have been given in good faith based on the assurances we ourselves received. We feel strongly that we and the children have been let down. I appreciate that this does not take away the frustration that you and your child will feel. Please be assured that we are working very hard to support students this week and to get them back into school, and are actively planning on how we will make up for the disrupted start to term. We will write to you about this in due course.

Yours faithfully

Graeme Atkins
Executive Headteacher

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